



## FAQs for VI Book 1 And V Book Regarding Exams in Summer 2021

### ***What is happening with public exams this summer?***

The situation is still resolving itself and will take time to do so. At present, the two main announcements are as follows:

- GCSEs and A-levels are cancelled: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-55537769>
- IGCSEs and Pre-Us (Which are run by CAIE) are currently scheduled to run as normal:

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/news/news-details/view/update-for-cambridge-schools-on-2021-exam-series-20210108/>

### ***This seems illogical. Please explain.***

It all depends on whether the qualification falls under the regulation of OFQUAL. IGCSEs are not OFQUAL regulated and the exam board are at liberty to run these exams if they wish. Pre-U exams are OFQUAL regulated. Last year both IGCSE and Pre-U were eventually cancelled to bring them in line with domestic GCSEs and A-level.

### ***So are they going to run IGCSE and Pre-U exams?***

As you would expect, we are in communication with CAIE to ascertain their likely approach. It is difficult to say for the time being. The experience from last year would suggest that CAIE will follow suit and also be cancelled but, at this stage, boys should assume that they will be taking place.

### ***What does the school advise?***

Until the situation resolves itself, Dons will be continuing to deliver the syllabus content and will be finishing all courses (GCSE/IGCSE/Pre-U and A-level). Boys should continue to work as directed by their dons and approach all of their subjects in the same way.

### ***What about mocks? When will these run?***

These are postponed until they can be conducted in controlled conditions when you return to school.

***So what will happen over the first couple of weeks in their stead?***

V Book and VI Book 1 classes will receive remote tuition from first hour on Tuesday 12 January, with dons answering questions and delivering revision materials in the first week back in preparation for individualised class tests in the second. The material examined in class tests will be a specified subset of that covered as part of mock preparation, with each don producing a bespoke test for their set.

***Will these individualised class tests count towards a 'teacher-led' or centre assessed grades (CAGs)?***

It is unlikely that these class tests will count towards a 'teacher-led' CAG. They are principally an opportunity for you to demonstrate to your class don what you have done over the holidays, where you are at this stage of the year and identify any gaps in your knowledge & understanding.

***How will the school approach 'Centre Assessed Grades'?***

Whatever is decided by government and the exam boards, we will ensure that pupils are treated in a manner that is fair to all and will, of course, endeavour to ensure that all boys at Winchester achieve the highest grades possible.

***Will my dons know more?***

No – so please do not waste their time or yours in asking them. They are indeed being asked not to reply! We don't expect guidance from OFQUAL for at least a month and possibly longer. This will then take time to be processed by individual exam boards. As soon as there is certainty all members of the school community will be told simultaneously.

***In conclusion***

Much remains unclear. Remain positive and try to put to one side these distractions. Approach remote learning with the view that exams may indeed take place and work in a manner to best prepare you for the next stage of your academic career. Don't hesitate to contact your Housemaster over the course of the next half term; he is there to support you through this challenging period and will want to hear of any concerns that you may have. If there should be any pressing questions relating to 'teacher-led' or centre assessed grades, you are welcome to contact me directly.

**TNT 08 01 2021**